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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Beyda)
Serial No.: 09/933,615)
Filed: August 20, 2001)
Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR)
MIXED MODE PUBLIC AND)
PRIVATE GATEKEEPER)
SYSTEM)
Group Art Unit: 2663)
Examiner: Juntima)

Declaration Under 37 CFR §1.131

1. I, William J. Beyda, hereby declare that I am the inventor of the above-identified patent application.
2. I reside at 21580 Edward Way, Cupertino, California.
3. I have been employed by Siemens Business Communications Systems, Inc., and its successor, Siemens Information and Communications Networks, in Santa Clara, California, since prior to August 17, 2001.
4. Prior to August 17, 2001, I conceived an embodiment of the invention titled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MIXED MODE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE GATEKEEPER SYSTEM."
5. Prior to August 17, 2001, I submitted to the Siemens Intellectual Property Department an Invention Disclosure, including a description of the invention (Exhibit A).
6. The invention disclosure includes the following text:

The gatekeeper is typically equipped with a database of users for whom it provides secondary services. In this case, the gatekeeper will be

setup with numerous personalities, to replicate the gatekeepers at the many client sites. IP address load sharing can be utilized on the routers of the enterprise customers, to automatically redirect gatekeeper traffic to the off-site gatekeeper if the primary gatekeeper is unavailable. . .

Each packet that arrives at the gatekeeper can be inspected for its destination IP address, or its source. These can be checked by the [software] database to determine which customer is in fact needing backup service. Then, the service database can be checked to see what features are enabled for that customer...In this way, the gatekeeper can be started with the right configuration file for this customer...

7. Of information and belief, this Invention Disclosure establishes a completion of the invention.
8. Of information and belief, the Invention Disclosure was subsequently assigned to patent counsel for preparation as a patent application.
9. Upon completion of preparation, I reviewed the patent application, executed a Declaration, and the patent application was filed.
10. Of information and belief, at all times prior to filing, the invention was maintained as Siemens confidential information and not available to the public.
11. All statements made of my knowledge are true. All statements made of information and belief are believed true. I acknowledge that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, and may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

By: William J. Beyda
William J. Beyda
Date: 2/27/06

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EXHIBIT A

In a ToL system, when the gatekeeper fails, while existing calls may continue, new calls may be impossible. While some calling capability may exist with gatekeeperless operation, most features will in fact be lost. Hence the need for an off-site, backup gatekeeper.

While the concept of backup gatekeeper is not new, the idea of a single gatekeeper provisioned to act as many backup gatekeepers, is new. The gatekeeper is typically equipped with a database of users for whom it provides secondary services. In this case, the gatekeeper will be setup with numerous personalities, to replicate the gatekeepers at the many client sites. IP address load sharing can be utilized on the routers of the enterprise customers, to automatically redirect gatekeeper traffic to the off-site gatekeeper if the primary gatekeeper is unavailable. Alternatively, all gatekeeper requests can go to a proxy server operated by the ASP/ISP, which will first try the local gatekeeper, but lacking an appropriate response in a given time, will forward the request to their own, backup gatekeeper.

A new software layer is required on the backup gatekeeper, known as EnterpriseSelect. Each packet that arrives at the gatekeeper can be inspected for its destination IP address, or its source. These can be checked by the EnterpriseSelect database to determine which customer is in fact needing backup service. Then, the service database can be checked to see what features are enabled for that customer, and if there are any customer specific items (e.g. closed user groups, dialing plans, etc.) that apply to this call. In this way, the gatekeeper can be started with the right configuration file for this customer. Either multiple instances of the gatekeeper software can be started when each new customer needs backup services, or a single gatekeeper, configured with all possible features, can use the EnterpriseSelect layer to limit which features can be accessed by refusing features not paid for. Also, pay per use or subscription billing can be handled from this layer as well.

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